



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF
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Judicial Council to Hold Public Meeting in San Francisco on Friday, October 24

Actions to Be Taken on Courthouse Construction Plan, New Trial Court Judgeships, and Performance Measures for Juvenile Dependency Courts

San Francisco—The Judicial Council of California will hold a public business meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2008, in the Judicial Council Conference Center, Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building, Third Floor, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco.

Chaired by Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the council is the 27-member administrative policymaking body of the California courts. The meeting will be audiocast live on the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/. The agenda and reports are available online at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age102408.pdf>.

The reports on the council's agenda include the following:

Courthouse Construction: The council will consider several actions to implement Senate Bill 1407, newly-enacted legislation that provides enhanced revenue streams to fund direct costs and lease-revenue bonds to repair and renovate California courthouses. The council will be asked to 1) update the prioritization methodology that determines how courthouse construction projects are selected by the Judicial Council for funding by SB 1407; 2) update the Trial Court Capital-Outlay Plan; and 3) select 41 Immediate and Critical Need projects to be funded by the bond.

Judicial Workload Update: The council will consider confirming the need for the Legislature to create 50 new judgeships in the trial courts that were identified in 2007 as the final part of the three-year plan to create 150 judgeships. The council also will consider an updated priority list of 100 additional judgeships for which it would seek legislative authority and funding over the next two years.

Juvenile Dependency Court: The Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee will recommend that the council adopt new juvenile dependency court performance measures and an accompanying implementation guide. The performance measures would comply with the Child Welfare Leadership and Performance Accountability Act of 2006.

New and Amended Court Rules and Forms: The council will consider 40 reports proposing new and amended rules of court and court forms in appellate procedure, criminal law, civil law and small claims, court interpreters, court security, family and juvenile law, and probate. Another report proposing revisions in civil jury instructions is also on the consent agenda.

Adoption Month: Council members will consider a recommendation that it declare November “Court Adoption and Permanency Month.” The goal of the month is to highlight innovative efforts aimed at expediting adoption and permanency while raising awareness of the need for safe and permanent homes for children.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.